



ALOGUE

BETWEEN

A Modern Courtier, and an Honest English Gentleman.

Courtier. **D**EAR Sir, Your Humble Servant, you are Welcome to Town; Pray how long have you been arrived.

Gentleman. Sir, I came but last Night, and thought my self oblig'd to pay my Respects to you in the first place: I hope all your Noble Family is well.

C. I thank you Sir, they are very well; But pray how does your good Lady? And how do Matters go in the Country?

G. Why we are all reasonable well in Health, but out of every way else; For the Taxes are so high, Money so scarce, and the People so dead, &c. That I Protest my Estate is so Cripple'd, I hardly maintain my Family.

C. Sir, you are my Worthy Friend, and therefore I would not have you find Fault with any thing; for, if you are willing, I doubt not, but you may soon have such an Employment, that you will not feel the weight of the Taxes; nay,

may, you may be a Great Gainer by the War; and I would fain have you in the Government. What say you, Will you Advance a small Summ.

G. Sir, I give you many Thanks for your kind Offers which at this time-a-day I can by no means accept; and I am desirous to be plain with you in my Reasons for Refusal; but you being a Privy-Councillor, and Member of Parliament, &c. I know not whether 'twill be Convenient to use Freedom of Speech; for, you may Interpret some things I may say, as Reflections on your Self.

C. Sir, I assure you, what I Offer is design'd for your Interest; but, if you don't approve on't, you may use what Freedom of Speech you please; for, though I am Honour'd with those Offices you mention, yet that shall not, in the least, be any barr to the freedom of our Discourse, neither shall I take any thing Ill, for I perceive you have a desire to Talk about Publick Affairs.

G. Sir, I heartily Thank you for the Liberty you have given me; And now I must tell you, that I am of Opinion, there is such a *Ceball* of Corrupt Men in the Government, that 'tis impossible for an Honest Man to live and act amongst them, unless he will renounce his Duty to God and his Country; For (as one well observes) *Good and Bad Men Joyn'd in a Government, are like the Iron and Clay in the Toes of Nebuchadnezzar's Image, they may Cleave, but they will never Incorporate.*

C. Why truly, what you Alledge, is a good Reason for not taking an Employment, provided there be any Just Grounds for your Opinion about the Corruption in the Government. -- I Confess there is, and has been a Great Noise and Clamour about Corruption and Mismanagement; and I have always endeavour'd, as narrowly as I could, to search out the Truth of Matters, but cou'd never yet find any thing so Material, as to be worthy the Cogninace of either King or Parliament.
However

However, Great Clamours have been made by some Private-Men, who (I suppose) were Male-Contents, they have Promis'd Vast Discoveries of Treachery and Fraud, but when it has come to Examination, I never found that the Accusers could make out their Allegations, but Mountains dwindled away into Mole-hills, and, as I said before, nothing appear'd that was thought worthy of *Cognizance*.

G. I find, by your Discourse, you endeavour not only to Evade, but Cover those Gross and Monstrous Evils that have been the Causes of the Length of the War, and of our Present Distress: Sir, I know not what kind of *Miscarriages* you think are worthy of *Cognisance*, but, I fear, upon Examination, 'twill be found, that the Crimes already prov'd in the Faces of our Rulers, will Amount to the Degree of *ROBERT* and *MURDER*; and, which makes them more Hainous, they have not been done in a *Hostile Manner*, in Open Defiance of the Law, as the High-way-man takes away your Money on the Road, But with the Audacious Face of Authority, under the Sacrilegious *Mask* of Law, Justice and State-Pollicy: The Authors and Upholders of these *Mischiefs* in the mean time blowing the Trumpet of Fame in each others Praise, as Long-headed Councillors, &c. So that I do not wonder these matters should be Rejected, and not thought worthy of *Cognizance*, when I consider that Infallible *Maxim*, That the Inferiours cannot be Knaves, and be Protected by the Superintendants, unless those Superintendants be as bad. And thus it appears almost Impossible any Fault could be Punished, but that all Criminals must be Protected, and their Crimes hid from the King, when Corrupt Men sat Judges of each others Actions——Therefore 'twas not likely they wou'd hurt one another; For the very Scripture tells you, That Satan cannot cast out Satan, if he should his Kingdom would fall.

hC. Sir, you have Charg'd the Court with a Witness; yet 'tis

but a General and bare Assertion; and let me tell you (being something Concern'd) there's a great difference between Asserting and Proving, and therefore I'd fain have you (if you can) branch out your General Charge into some particular Instances, as for what may seem to Reflect upon me, as I told you before, please to use your Freedome, for I shall not Regret any thing that shall happen in Discourse at this time.

G. Why then, Sir, for your Satisfaction, I shall give you some Instances, that have accidentally fallen under my Observation, which I fear, in Reference to the Mighty *Mass* of Corruption in the Government, will be found only as a small Pattern or Sample of a vast quantity of Goods, that the Whole Parcel is of the same Sort, otherwise there cou'd never be such an agreeable sweet harmony among all the Offices, in-Crying up the Parts, and hiding the Crimes of each other from King and People: But having more than one Office to speak of, I think I shall begin first with that of the Navy.

The Commissioners of that Office have been accus'd of making most horrible Wast of the Publick Treasure, by a long Practice of Fraudulent Contracts for Naval Stores, and driving Trades in Embezelling all sorts of Stores, as well as Foul and Shameful Extravagance in Building and Repairing the King's Ships: These things have been Fully Prov'd against them before the Lords of the Admiralty, and before the Lords of the Council, and afterwards openly set forth in Print to both Houses of Parliament, and yet the Delinquents are still Continu'd in their Employments. So that by this Open Villany, the Necessary Charge of the Navy is more than doubled, and the King Shamefully Betray'd and Cheated, and His Subjects made Beggars by Heavy Taxes. But there is one thing more that is a most Dangerous and Cursed Evil, and that is the Usage of the Poor Saylor, whose Number is about Forty Thousand Employed in the Service of their King and Country:

Country: Their *DEPLORABLE CASE* has been often at Large set forth in Print, and made known to the Parliament, Council, Admiralty, &c. And to Relate all their Grievances, and the Curfed Arts us'd to Ruin and Destroy them and their Families would be Endless: Therefore to avoid being Tedious, I shall only give you a short Account of their *MISERIES*, as I find it Inserted in a *BOOK*, Entituled, *Justice Perverted*, &c. Printed and Published last Year by Mr. Crosfeild, and Dedicated to Both Houses of Parliament. The *BOOK* contains besides this a Great *Mass* of Flat Down-right Knavery; and the Commissioners of the Navy, and others, are Named therein to the particular Facts: But I find, it has all been pass'd over and Stifled. However, I shall Relate it as follows, in his Own Words, having, by Good Luck, the *BOOK* in my Pocket to Assist me.

"The poor Saylor (Says he) that Venture their Lives and Limbs to Serve their King and Country, and who are one of the greatest Bulworks of the Kingdom, have been all along most inhumanely and Barbarously Treated; and they and their Families reduc'd to a Miserable and Deplorable State, particularly by the wicked practices of putting *QUERT's* and *RUNS* upon their Pay, For amongst those great Numbers that are Set on Shoar Sick; those that Dye and others that Continue Sick above Thirty Days, and those sent to the *London Hospitals* who are thereby disabled to return to their Ships, are for the most part made Run. Others whose Ships are Sayl'd before recovery having gone aboard other Ships, are prick'd Run in that Ship from which they were Sent: And if a Seaman is Turned over from Ship to Ship, and by that means has Serv'd on board four or five Ships in the Navy, Yet if he happens to be prick'd Run in the last Ship he serv'd in, he shall of Consequence be prick'd Run in all the preceding Ships. By this Means a Query or Run takes away a Mans pay worse than an Execution, and by the present practice no Seaman, or his poor
 "Family

" Family is at any Certainty of having the benefit of the Kings pay,
 " For it is in the power of the Captain, Captain's Clerk, Purser,
 " Clerk of the Checque, Muster-Master, or Clerks in the Navy-
 " Office, wherever they please to put a Run or Query upon any
 " Seamans pay without Inserting the Reason for so doing, or the
 " Name of the person that put it, so that for these Black pieces of
 " Robbery, No one is lyable to be Call'd to Account, but the poor
 " Saylor is kept wholly in the Dark, and he or his Wife may wait at
 " the Navy-Office Month after Month with Petitions to no purpose,
 " till he has Spent all his Substance, and if he begins to talk of his
 " being thus Cheated and Robb'd, he is Threatned to be Try'd for
 " his Life as a Mutineer: So that the Barbarity the poor Saylor's
 " do and have Suffer'd this War is unexpressible, For the Blood of
 " Thousands of Familys are pour'd out as Sacrifices to the Cove-
 " tousness of those whose Duty and place it is to be their Guardians
 " and Protectors. By all which it's plain, That whatever Good-
 " Laws may be made for the Increase and Incouragement of Seamen,
 " will prove Ineffectual, so long as these Practices Continue.

" These Grievances have been at large set forth in Print by one
 " Mr. Hodges, and a Scheme of their true Cause laid bare-fac'd
 " before the Admiralty by Mr. Trevor in a Letter, and a remedy
 " for them proposed in Writing, to the Admiralty by Mr. Gibson,
 " by order of a Committee of Council; and why there's nothing
 " done but this Fraud and Robbery still practic'd and supported, is,
 " what no reason can be given for, since neither Mr. Hodges's,
 " Mr. Trevors, nor Mr. Gibsons Papers beforemention'd; have
 " ever been exploded.

" The Lords of the Treasury were so fully Convinc'd of these
 " Cheats, that their Lordships did by Warrant under their hands in
 " December last, appoint Mr. Gibson to receive all Infor-
 " mations of abuses in Payment of Seamens Tickets; which doubt-
 " less, would have put a stop to these wicked Practices, Notwith-
 " standing which, the said Mr. Gibson has never been suffer'd to
 " Act,

" *Act, and so their Lordships good Intentions have been wholly defeated: But why their Lordships have not been able to put their own orders in Execution, is another strange thing to me.*

This is the Account he gives; and 'tis certainly very amazing to consider that the Government should be so wretchedly Corrupt, as to pass over Crimes of such fatal Consequence.

But you may see that by this Cheating and Robbing there are vast Sums of Money gotten for some body, and certainly the Actors in it cannot have the whole profit to themselves, but it must be distributed elsewhere, to persons of higher Rank; Because their Interest is so great, that even after Conviction, they have power enough to Chain up Law and Justice from doing their proper Offices. And now Sir, what think you, are these Crimes worthy of Cognizance or not? but I have many more to add

C. Why then, Pray Sir proceed, for this is something more than I knew before; I confess, one of *Crosfields Books* was given me at the House of Commons, it lies somewhere about the House, but I had never time to read it over.

G. Indeed I thought as much, for it appears all things of that kind have hitherto been shamefully thrown aside as waste Paper, as if the persons to whom they were Dedicated did not desire to be Informed: But I shall go on and give you some Account of the Commissioners of the Admiralty.

Their Lordships have been accus'd of Concealing and Advocating the Crimes of the *Navy-Board*, and Discouraging and Ruining such of the Kings faithful Officers and Subjects, that laid them open: this has been prov'd against them before the Council, but all things lie dormant and unregarded: So that here is three degrees of such fatal Corruption, from the *Navy* to the *Admiralty* and from them to the *Council*, that alone is sufficient to shake the very Foundation of the Government.

It were endless, to tell you the rest of the *Admiralties* Crimes, who thro' Corruption and Ignorance, have not been able with about two hundred Sail of Ships to Guard our Navigation; whereby Trade has been destroy'd, and our Merchants undergone Infinite Losses, which our Enemies have had the Benefit of; and then further, the Admiralty have all along plac'd Commanders in the *Fleet* without any regard to Merit. So that this War we have lost above a hundred Ships, the greatest part of which have been fool'd away, by the Ignorance of the Commanders; and some by Cowardice without fighting, besides the horrid Miscarriages in Expeditions against the Enemy, as the shameful Expedition to *Brest*, &c. Which serves only to dispirit the People, and Increase their Taxes. Certainly a Man would think, that these Gentlemen have a design Totally to destroy the Navigation of *England*, for tho the Crimes of the *Sea* Commanders are so Heinous and Numerous; yet has not one of their *Sea* Journals been Examined all this War, to see how they have perform'd their Duty, tho there is no other way to Judge of their Fidelity and Ability in their Stations but by Traceing their Journals; and thus Ignorance and Negligence, as well as horrible Profaneness and Debauchery has generally over-spread the *Sea*, as well as the Land. But what should I speak any more of this Admiralty, for every one knows their Wickedness and Ignorance, yet I have often wonder'd there has not been more Complaints against them, from the *East-India* and *Guinea* Company and others, who are almost Ruin'd with Losses: Certainly our Merchants are like the Fools spoken of by *Aesop*, that none would meddle to remove the Stone from the Mouth of the *Bath*, tho every Man stumbled, and broke his shins over it at going in, till at last a Wise Man came and Roll'd it away; God grant we may have some VVise Men by the next Parliament, that will stand up for the publick good, or else in short we must prepare for foul VVeather.

C. But Sir, what needs all this Complaint, why most of these sores are heal'd, for here's a Council of Trade now settled, by which the Merchants Grievances, and several other things will be rectify'd

G. I confess, the Council of Trade was excellently propos'd at first to the Parliament; But the Interest of the Court quickly *beat out its Brains*, and from this Establishment I doubt little good will arise, my reasons for it are these. *First*, They do not understand Trade, 'tis Forreign to them, and out of their sphere. *Secondly*, I cannot but observe, that the Major part of these persons are the same that sit in Council; and from time to time have heard the Crimes of the Admiralty and Navy, and wanted no Power to redress those Grievances there: So that the Regulation is no more than removing these Gentlemen from one Room to another, as the Barons of the *Exchequer* pass from the Law to the *Chancery side*, now certainly if I am a corrupt or Ignorant Man in the Parlour, I am the same in the Dining Room.

But Sir, here you flatly Arraign the very Wisdom of the Government.

G. Yes, certainly and their honesty too (if by the Government you mean the Court or else what d' think I have been talking of all this while or how is it possible I could speak at all of any publick Grievances, unless I Arraign'd both, without you would have me say we are all Ruin'd; and at the same time affirm, that no body did it: But I must beg your patience a little further, because you did as it were, Challenge me to give you some Instances of Corruption.

C. Sir, Then you may proceed if you please; I am sorry to hear so much, tho I think none of it do's Actually relate to me, for I'm sure, I always did what I cou'd.

G. Why, then in the next place, I shall give you some Account

count of the Commissioners, for taking Care of Sick and Wounded Seamen, and Exchanging Prisoners of War, and these you will also find to be a wretched Pack: For one of their Clerks who laid down his Employment, has prov'd Notorious Crimes against them; as holding a Pernititious and Unlawful Correspondence with the *French* all this War, So that there has been an open and quick passage to give Intelligence to the Enemy of all our Affairs and Designs, and to betray the Kings Councils from time to time, also he has prov'd that they have Cheated the King in their Accounts; and Cheated the poor Sick and Wounded Seamen in *Plymouth* Hospital out of their Provisions, and that they have all along Cheated the Poor *French* Prisoners under their Care, out of part of their Allowance, and treated them in a very Barbarous manner. For it seems their whole Allowance was but four pence each Man a day, and they deducted three farthings out of that four pence: It was also prov'd that the *French* Intendant General *Marine*, writ diverse doleful Letters of Complaint to these Commissioners, telling them how Barbarously and inhumanely the poor *French* Prisoners were us'd, whereby many of them Perished; And that he had Orders from the *French* King to use our *English* Prisoners in like manner if it was not rectify'd; But no Regulation being made, but the Evil rather Increasing, was the true Cause that the *French* have all along us'd our poor *English* Captives in such a dreadful and Barbarous Manner: For by reason of their Miserable short allowance and lying diverse Months in Filthy and Loathsome Prisons, and others by being driven like Gally Slaves several hundred Miles Naked through the Country, I say from these Causes many hundreds of them have Perished, and many Familys have thereby been brought to utter Ruin: Nay these Men have Committed Murther on both sides of the Water; For, besides the *English*, they have basely and Cruelly destroy'd many of the

the poor *French* prisoners, which doubtless is no less Murder in the Sight of God notwithstanding the War.

These and Diverse other Crimes were Examined and prov'd before the Admiralty by the Kings Special Order above two years since, and a Report thereof was made to his Majesty and Carry'd by the Admiralty to the *Cabinet-Council*, but the Matter was so manag'd, that the Report was Stifled and not Read to the King: so that the Commissioners, upon their Petition, were granted a Re-hearing before the Council in Publick, where these Matters were Fully Prov'd over again; but the business was delay'd from time to time, till the King was gone for *Flanders*, so that the Report of the Council was also kept from his Majesty, and how that Report was afterwards Curry'd in his Majestys absence I know not, but this I know, the Commissions are still in their places with power to pursue their Villainy; so that what I told you just now appears again to be true. *That Satan cannot Cast out Satan.*

There may many things more be said of these Mens horrid Wickedness, as their destroying the poor Sick and Wounded Seamen with bad Medicines for the *Lucre* of gain, which with many other Crimes were fully prov'd against them before the Commissioners for Stateing the publick Accounts, where some Witnesses they brought appear'd most *Willfully and Notoriously perjur'd*, and Escap'd punishment. But for a more plain and particular Information herein, I shall refer you to a Book Printed and Publish'd last year, by the Person that brought the Complaint against these Men, and Dedicated to the house of Peers, It is Entituled *Bastons Case* (for so was the Clerks Name) or *a Brief Account of the Evil Practices of the present Commissioners for Sick and Wounded, as they were prov'd. 1st. Before the Lords of the Admiralty. 2^{ly}. Before the Lords of the Council, and 3^{ly}. Before the Commissioners for Stateing the publick Accounts.* For there is Contain'd the Admiraltys and Councils Report,

and there the Crimes of these Commissioners for Sick and Wounded lye barefac'd to the World.

And now Certainly it would Stir up a Mans Zeal for the publick good, if he did but Consider in what Jeopardy and peril the poor Saylor Serves his King and Country ; For (besides the hazard of his Life in open Fight) if he continues in the Kings Service without being Sick or Wounded or Taken by the Enemy, why then he's lyable to be *Query'd*, or *Run'd* out of his pay, or oblig'd for Necessity to sell his Ticket for half los (or more) to some of those Cursed Monsters, call'd *Ticket-buyers*, who (as it has appear'd too plain) are but *Deputy's* or *Journy-men* to the *Navy-Board*. If he is set on Shoar Sick and Fresh dyet and Broath will not Cure him, why then he runs a great hazard of being Poyson'd with his Physick, but if he recovers 'tis ten to one but he's prick'd *Run*; And if he's taken by the Enemy 'tis a great Chance if ever he returns to his Native Country.

Certainly it must ere long be Counted hard Measure, that for such petty Retail Robbery and Murther, as taking away a small Matter upon the Road, or for killing another in a Duel for an Injury receiv'd that a Man shou'd be hang'd like a Dog; When such wholesale Murtherers and Robbers as these are protected and Flourish in their Villainy, though their Actions tend to the utter Subversion and overthrow of a State: But this is an Age full of Wonders; For from the Court proceeds Abundance of Praying and Preaching and Fasting, but hardly a Grain of Integrity, Honesty, Justice or Humanity, as if these were Accounted Needless Ingredients in Religion.

But I am unwilling to try your patience any further with these displeasing Relations, otherwise I could add several other things and particularly of the Commissioners of the *Post Office*, how they have been lately prov'd Horribly Corrupt and unfaithful before the Lords Justices; likewise more might be said

of other Offices, and also of the great Corruption in the Army and abuse of the poor Soldiers, by the Agents and others, which was also plainly prov'd; But I think this is Enough at present to shew you what a Condition the Nation is in: For any one may Judge by these what the other Offices are, They being all Streams that proceed from the same Fountain (I mean the Court) and must consequently afford the same Bitter Water. And now I hope you are thoroughly convinc'd that the Complaints of Grievances have not been meer Clamour, as you were pleas'd to say in the beginning of our discourse.

C. I Confess Sir these things do look with an Ill face: Yet 'tis the greatest Riddle in the World to me, how such Mis-carryages as these cou'd be carry'd on, when we have had for some years past a *Commission Establish'd by Act of Parliament to Take, State and Examine the publick Accounts of the Kingdom*, and they have Power by the Act to Administer Oaths and to Call all Persons to an Account that have the Receipts or Issues of the Publick Revenue and that *Commission* consists only of Members of the house of Commons, who are utterly unqualify'd for any Employments at Court, and consequently unbyas'd Men; And therefore I wonder how these things can be.

G. Why I Confess, this is a *Mystery of Iniquity* that has darken'd the understandings of some, however 'tis a matter easily unriddled, for 'twill be found that these are also a pack of Gentlemen, nothing Inferiour to the worst of those already spoken of; for as the Court have hid the Grievances of the People from the King, so these have kept them from the Parliament, and have us'd such Arbitrary Arts, Tricks, and Devices to acquit and Justifie the worst of Villains that have come before them, and to blacken the Reputations of Honest Men, that certainly the like has not been known, for an Instance of which I refer you to the Printed Book I spoke of just now, about the Crimes of the Commissioners for Sick and Wound-

ed, Entitled *Bastons Case*, &c. There you will see in what an Arbitrary manner they heard that business, and Endeavour'd by all the shameful ways Imaginable, to acquit those Commissioners of Crimes they had been prov'd Guilty of twice before, *Viz.* At the *Admiralty* and *Council*. They allow'd Criminals to swear in their own behalf contrary to Law, and when *Baston* made them appear Notoriously perjur'd, they Barbarously Encourag'd one of them to swear on, (whose Name was *Nicholas Sharrack*) which he did, and was perjur'd again, and again, as plain as the Sun, and as black as Hell; and then they discharg'd him any further Attendance, with as much Commendation and Applause as if he had Sworn right, but I refer you to the Book for that and much more, for by this *Illegal and Ungodly Method* of Swearing Criminals in their own behalf; with diverse other new Invented Arbitrary ways in hearing the Peoples Grievances, these Gentlemen can at pleasure make the Devil white. However, it seems this business of the Commissioners for Sick and Wounded was so plain (being twice before both prov'd and Reported) that they were not able to wipe off their Guilt and Infamy: But this they were able to do for them, to bury it in their Office and keep it from the knowledge of the House of Commons, which they have accordingly done: And when it was afterwards brought into the House of Lords to be heard, they prevented it there also by a Trick, and got it out of the House, for they Acquainted their Lordships that the matter was then depending before their Board; and pray'd it might be Recommitted to them to finish the same, and make their Report, which the House accordingly did; but the Report is not made to this day, neither will be I suppose till the day of Judgment: And as to what they told the House of Lords, that the matter was then depending before them, 'twas a great falsity, and design'd only as an Excuse to disappoint the hear-
ing

ing of the matter in Parliament. Much more might be said of these Men concerning the *Navy* and *Army*, how they have brow-beat and discourag'd Witnesses, and Incourag'd Knaves and Villains, stifled, Complaints, &c. So that these Men instead of being a *Cheque* to Corruption; have been the *Props and Pillars* to support it, as true Servants and Vassals to the Court.

Certainly such a Commission might have been of exceeding use to the publick, had it consisted of true *Englishmen*, and been Wisely and Honestly manag'd; for 'twould have been a place to Punish and reform Knavery and Villany, and Rogues and Cheats, with Tears in their Eyes, might have call'd it the terrible Office of *Inquisition*, but now, on the contrary, they may Rejoyce, and truly say, 'tis an Office of *Absolution*; For they have Examin'd no Accounts, nor sav'd the Nation a penny of Mony this War, but Knaves, Knavery and Taxes have constantly Increas'd; all that they do, as I know of, is, they receive the Accounts of the Receipts and Issues of the Kings Revenue from all Offices and Persons, and then they take the pains to Transcribe in Books and Methods of their own, so as to be able to Answer any Question of the House of Commons, relating to the Receipts of the Revenue or Charge of the War, but to detect Frauds, is so small a part of their work that they hardly Regard it. Sure, in this mighty Mass of Corruption the parties concern'd, could not have subsisted without the help of this Office; for it is a Receptacle for all their Knavish Accounts, where being New-Moulded (without Alteration) they receive a *Vizard* of Honesty; In short, this Office, as tis manag'd, has been a great *Blind to the Nation*, and may (for its Abominable foulness) be fitly compar'd to a Capital Common-shoar, into which abundance of other Common-shoars and little petty Sinks do Empty themselves.

C. But Sir, I tell you again, They are Men utterly unqualify'd

fy'd for any Employments at Court, to what end therefore can this Corruption be among them? really 'tis still a Riddle to me.

G. Why Sir to the same End that all other Corruption is, Namely *to get Money* and I must tell you they are in a most Excellent way for't, because they have it in their power to Crush or Protect such a great Number of Knaves of all sorts and sizes: And I hope Sir, you don't question but that they have *Pockets* and *Coffers* enough to put their Money in, as well as the Courtiers: Therefore pray where's the Riddle on't, for my part, I see none at all; For it plainly appears, these Gentlemen have been so far from obstructing, that they have afforded great help, and perform'd their part towards the Destruction of their Country, as well as the rest.

C. Well, admit all you say is true, and that there is such a General Corruption as you speak of; How can you help it at present, pray would you have the King at this Juncture Immediately go to Turning out, and Punishing such a great Number of Men? Certainly, 'twou'd make such Disorder and Confusion, as would soon tear up the very Foundation of the Government, and that would be a Remedy with a Witness.

G. Why then, I find you have Chang'd your Opinion, and own at last that the Nation is Sick; But now to save the *Court*, you would have the Distemper so far gone, that there is not strength left to undergo a Course of Physick, without Imminent hazard of Life: I confess, the Court of all sorts of Physick, ever hated Purges. They will take Gold Cordials, and they are great Admirers of Quieting Pills, but Purging they mortally hate, and will have it to be a Vile and Dangerous way of Practice. But, to speak in your own words--- Admit what you say is true, that the Government is brought to this degree of Feebleness, Pray how highly then

then is the King and Nation Oblig'd to these Long-headed STATES MEN and COUNCELLORS (whose Parts and Honesty, for some Years past, it has been almost Treason to Question) Or what Satisfaction can they render to His Majesty, and the People of *England*, for bringing upon them this Incurable Disease?

But now, Sir, pardon me, if I differ a little from you in Opinion: I do not believe the Government is so weak, but that a Fit Remedy might be apply'd for all these Evils, and that is, to Turn Out in the first place some of those that have been most Obnoxious to the People, and put in their Rooms Men of Publick Spirits, Fearing God, and Hating Covetousness, and they will have Courage sufficient to Ballance the rest of the Wicked Party, till the Law is let loose to do its Proper Office upon them that are Turn'd Out, whose Punishment will strike others with Great Terror, and make them fearful how they Offend: But if they escape, 'twill be a most Pernicious Example to Encourage and Excite all Men to become as Corrupt as they; 'twill also be highly Displeasing to God, and 'twill greatly Incense the People; and indeed none has any Rightful Power to Pardon them, because their Crimes have been Universal, and committed not only against the King, but against the Whole Body of the People of *England*. In this manner the Court may be soon Gradually Purg'd, and then the Inferiours will of consequence be purg'd also. The Scripture says, *Resist the Devil, and he will flee from you*: and no doubt the same Rule holds for those that have Acted like his Children; Therefore why shou'd we fear to Execute JUSTICE upon them? Alas, they are but poor Feeble Creatures, not worth mentioning, in Comparison of the Force of the Law: 'tis true, they have Power to do great Mischief in their Stations, as we have found to our Cost, but when the Law lays hold on them, their Power ceases like the

Power of a *Witch*, when She's Seiz'd by a *Constable*: Certainly he that knows their Actions, and Contributes to Save them from the Just Censure and Sentence of the Law, makes himself an Approver, before God, of all the Ruin and Destruction they have brought upon this Nation, and of all the Innocent Families they have Destroy'd, and Blood they have Spilt; Therefore, unless the Law is put in Execution, there can be but a Half-fac'd Regulation, or a Palliative Cure, that will soon Relapse, and become Incurable. For, let none Absurdly and Foolishly Dream, that God will suffer us to Prosper in the midst of those Oppressions, Frauds, and most Hainous Immorallities, that we are Bound in Duty, and Able by Authority to Punish and Hinder. 'Tis a False and Villanous Saying, to Whisper in the Ears of *Princes*, That VVholesome Laws have any Antipathy to True Policy: The Law, when 'tis Upheld, is the *Princes* best Friend, it cannot Dissemble, but always faithfully stands by Him, ready to Oppose His Enemies: It gives Him His RIGHT, and His Subjects theirs, and so makes a Powerful Prince, and a Vertuous VVealthy and Peaceable Government. But 'tis Natural for Corrupt Men to Hate Good Laws, and that makes it and the Nation have so many Enemies at Court. And now, after all, when these *Long-headed Men* have brought the Nation to this *Pitch* of Ruin, for them Cunningly to Insinuate, That 'twill be Dangerous to Call them to an Account for their CRIMES, and Administer Help to our selves, Pursuant to the Laws of God and the Nation, is an Unparallel'd Audacious Absurdity: But I confess, we can expect no better Advice from that Party, because the King, and Kingdoms Safety, seems Opposite to Theirs; For hitherto they have perniciously and Pittifully made Themselves the Center of all Their Actions.

C. Sir,

C. Sir, I believe things are bad enough ; but, methinks you'r too Furious for a Regulation ; really 'twill put things into Great Disorder : therefore I am of Opinion 'tis better to see the Success of One Year more.

G. As for Staying a Year longer 'twill be highly dangerous ; *Why should God be Provok'd, and the Nation Oppress'd a Year Longer ?* perhaps a Year hence we shall not have ability to help our selves. 'Tis said in the Law of Moses, *Thou shalt not delay Justice*, as if the Legislator had said, Thou shalt not put it off to a further time, The poor Mans Cause shall not be delay'd an hour. God knows by willful and Needless delays Multitudes of private persons are Barbarously Robb'd of their Right and utterly Ruin'd by the horrid, delaytory, Expensive unrighteous practice in our Courts of Law and Equity ; therefore let that Suffice, and let not the whole Eody of the People have a General Ruin, by a Delay in the State ; Certainly 'twill be very Dangerous to delay the Cause of this drooping Nation any longer. A Learned States-man Speaking of fore-runners of Troubles, says, *That when any of the four Pillars of Government are Shaken or Weaken'd (which are Religion, Justice, Council, and Treasure) Men had need pray for fair Weather :* Now certainly with us not only some, but all these Pillars are Shaking and Ready to fall ; As for Religion we have none, though we have much *Preaching, Praying, &c.* for had we any Real Religion, we shoud have *Justice and Morallity*. Justice it plainly appears has almost quite left us. And as for *Council or Pollicy*, I Confess we have abundance of that, but it is of a VVretched Stamp, being such as is opposite to Divine and Humane Law. And for our *Money or Treasure*, we may Recken that gone also ; For though there may still be a great Stock in the Nation, yet the people may Starve, because by a long devouring Corruption it's almost all gather'd into the hands of a few *Court-huxters*, that neither do nor will use it.

'Tis no hard Conjecture to say that a *General Poverty, Oppression, Breaking of Laws, and Advancement of Unworthy Persons to Great Offices*, are Common Motives to, and Fore-runners of Seditions and Troubles; and the certain way to prevent these Evils, is to take away the Cause and Matter of them, which the Administration of Justice, and Suppressing of Vice and Wickedness will Effectually do; For God will surely give Success to all such Remedies, if they be Sincerely and Faithfully apply'd, and all contrary Policy, in this Case, must certainly prove very Foolish, if not Fatal.

How Ridiculous is it to Delay this Matter, and to think that these Persons now upon the Stage, can ever make this a Flourishing Nation, when they have neither *Parts* nor *Moral Vertues* equal to other Men? 'Tis true, they are Gifted with a little Cunning, which a Learned Statesman (truly) says, *Is only a Crooked sort of Wisdom*. Besides, it does appear by above Seven Years Experience, that the very Talent of these Gentlemen lies not to Enrich or Increase, but to Impoverish, and bring a Flourishing State to Ruin and Decay, and to *Trample upon Law and Justice* and all Good Men, and (as one excellently observes) *to make Magistracy which was Intended for the Benefit of Mankind, prove a Plague and Destruction to it*. But the Honour of God, and the Good of their Prince and Country is the least of their Care. They Level their Councils and Polliticks to their own Advantage, and Slyly Study rather *be thoroughly acquainted with their Master's Temper, than to be Skilful in His Business*. I Pray God that all the Enemies of our King and Nations Happiness may be Plentifully Stock'd with Statesmen of such Parts and Honesty, and be so effectually blinded as not to perceive them.

Certainly at this time a Day, when Poverty, and consequently Discontentment is so Universal, 'tis Highly Dangerous to make any Delay in Justice; For, of this you may rest Assurd.

Assur'd, *That as many as are Ruin'd, or Impoverish'd in their Substance, by Injustice, or Male-Administration, so many VOTES there is for TROUBLES.*

C. Why really I know not well what to say to't; I wish all things were done for the Best: But yet methinks 'tis strange to Observe, That all these Complaints have been brought upon the Stage, by a few Inconsiderable Men, such as had generally Bad Characters, and were Reported to be very Ill Men in themselves, and that they did these things with Ill Designs, and I believe that was one Reason why they were no more taken Notice of, as likewise because none of any Great Figure appear'd with them.

G. Why that's no Wonder at all: For it may be observ'd, that the Generality of the World is so Foolish, that they regard more the Outward Manner of things, than the Inward Matter of them. It is so in Religion it self (to our Eternal Shame be it spoken) as appears by the Vast Troops of Pious Hypocrites, *Overseers, Pastors, and Members of all Churches*, who take Great Pains by abundance of *Praying and Preaching*, and *Fasting*, to make an Outward Gaudy Shew of Godliness, but use no Hearty, nor Sincere Endeavours really to Suppress Vice and Wickedness: *As if Religion was a Noun Substantive, that cou'd stand by it self, without requiring Morality to be join'd with it.*

As for the *Ill Characters* these Persons generally have, that's no wonder neither; For, 'tis one great Master-piece of this Corrupt Party's Policy, *in their Fencing with Law and Justice*, to serve all those that Complain of Grievances, as the Persecuting Pagans did the Primitive Christians, *who put them into Lyons and Bears Skins, that the Dogs might seize on them, and Bait them to Death*; So these Monitors, after they have Perverted, Delay'd, Deny'd, or otherways Baffled Justice, give an Honest Man a Cursed Character, and in that *Masquerade*
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turn him loose to the Mercy of a *Mistaken Multitude*: But certainly 'tis a high degree of Presumption, as well as Deceiving and Wronging the Publick, thus falsely to Brand those (that stand up for the Interest of their Country, to preserve their Laws and Liberties) with such Base *Characters*, as persons Disaffected to the King and Government, as tho' by such Complaints they only design'd to stir up the Minds of the People to *Sedition* and *Rebellion*; when, in Truth, 'tis themselves that only *Bid Fair for REBELLION*, by their Corrupt and VVicked Practices: For he that Endeavours to Inform King and People of such Dangerous Distempers in the STATE, certainly does nothing but his Duty, and therefore cannot deserve such an Odious *Character*, for endeavouring to Preserve, Support and Defend *the King, Government and Laws he lives under*. But he, that by his horrible Male-Administation, and Oppression, endeavours to overthrow all, let him be in ever so great a Place to pass his *Crafty Censures* on others, does certainly himself deserve the Name and punishment of a *Rebel and Traitor*.

C. But, pray Sir, Answer me one thing, How can the Government be so corrupt, as you say, and so regardless of Justice, when there has been divers Great Men turn'd out this Reign for *Mismanagement*? These must be Acts of Justice, unless you'll say, they were all Turn'd out only for their Honesty.

G. Not I indeed Sir, If I should say so, I shou'd wrong my Conscience, But I believe I can unfold the Mystery; which generally I take to be only this; all Men know the Court is divided into Factions, which sometimes have a difference, either about their *Profit* or *Preferment*, or something of like Nature, when the Quarrel is broach'd one must overcome and perhaps the others fall into disgrace; But they are not turn'd out for any of their Crimes, or through any principle of Justice
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in their Adversarys, but only through a private peake and Quarrel, *wherein Vertue, Honesty, and the Publick Good has no Concern*; For you may observe in the Course of this War that though there has been great Crimes allcag'd against some of those that were turn'd out: Yet after they were dismiss'd their Adversarys made no prosecution against them, Not for want of *Malice or Proof*, but as if both partys were alike Concern'd and so Equally afraid of the Law. Just as two *Harlots* (Pardon the Comparifon) that live together, and falling out about their Profit, the Strongest turns the Weakest out of doors; Why this is no Argument that she's Vertuous that Remains in the House: For both of them were *Harlots* before they met, *Harlots* while they liv'd together, and *Harlots* after they parted; Neither does the *Prevailing Harlot* follow the other with Warrants to send her to the house of Correction, because 'twill also bring her self into Jeopardy: *For the same Law will Whip them both.*

C. Sir, I could wish with all my Heart that things were better, yet sure they cannot be so very bad as you say, because there are in Office persons of different Opinions, part *Churchmen* and part *Dissenters*, and no doubt it has been Wisdom so to do: For they wou'd be forward, and glad of an Opportunity to tell each others Faults, to Weaken the Contrary party, and Strengthen their own; So that there's Cause to believe they have hitherto been a perfect Checque upon each others Actions, and therefore it do's not stand to reason there can be such a United Cabal as you speak off.

G. Why Sir, this is only another *Court Riddle* much like the former, which has also Confounded the Judgments of the people; yet if a Man will but Consult Reason tis Easily unfolded. I believe there is at Court the *Church-party* and the *Dissenting-party* (as they call themselves) and I Confess the
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Argument that you bring from it seems something plausible, though I can by no means allow it to be true.

The Philosophers say, *That one Experiment will knock a hundred Arguments in the head*: Then Certainly your Argument cannot stand, For we have seen by long and Woful Experience that these partys have had no differences in the State for promoting the Honour of God, the good of their Prince and Country, and Suppressing Vice and Wickedness; *For these indeed wou'd have been glorious Quarrels*, But all their differences have been Independant of this only to promote *Private Interest*.

What though they seem to be at Variance one with another, It has hitherto been found, If any Man offers to do his Duty, and Stand up for the Publick Good, he finds no difference in them; but they are all his Mortal Enemys: *Church and Dissenters* all alike, all stand firm for the *Profitable Cause of Corruption*, to Betray their King, and Ruin their Country; This I say we have found by Experience, and therefore all the Arguments in the VWorld will never Refute it.

VWhat though they pretend to diverse Opinions in Religion, VWhat then? Do not *Harlots* do the same? Yes Certainly, there are *Church of England Harlots*, *Dissenting Harlots*, *Roman Catholick Harlots*, &c. Though these pretend to different Religions, yet they are all of one Trade, and no doubt would Unanimously agree in the Main that all *Justices of Peace*, *Constables*, *Houses of Correction*, &c. should be Suppress'd, because by them their Trade is Obstructed: So in like manner these Men notwithstanding any petty Differences, Stand together in a body against *Law and Justice*, because it tends to Mortify their Ambition and Lusts, and to hinder their profit.

But Sir, I am afraid after all that you and I are Mistaken, and that the Court do's not Consist so much of a Real *Church of England* and *Dissenting-party* as of a *Predominant Atheistical party*,

Party, for so indeed they appear to be by their Actions, and it also agrees with our Saviours Rule, *That the Tree is known by its Fruit*; For 'tis Certainly very foolish, and Contradictory to say, *That a Corrupt and Wicked Man has any real Religion*, let him pretend to what he will; so that these that Divide themselves into two divisions, under the Masquerade of *Church and Dissenters*, do plainly appear to be but one and the same party, whose *Moralls and Practice* is such that they can truly be of no *Religion or Church*, unless they be of the *Synagogue of Satan*.

C. Why Sir, I know not what to say to it, you have such an odd way of Arguing; yet methinks 'tis Strange the Nations Grievances shou'd arrive to so great a pitch (as you say they are at) with so little Opposition; Why 'tis in Effect Charging the whole Body of the People to be a Company of *Sleepy, Senceless, Sotts and Fools*, that having *Laws and Priviledges*, they did not make more *Powerful and Formidable Complaints* to the *Parliament*: Therefore I must still tell you 'tis very unintelligible to me to believe that *Matters* can be so bad as you say, and the People so quiet, *Who so bravely like Englishmen Stood up for their Laws and Priviledges in the late Reign*.

G. Certainly Sir, the Peoples Patience ought not to be us'd as an Argument to Continue their Grievances, I'm sure that is an odd way of Arguing: However I Wave it, and for your Satisfaction shall give you some Reasons why they have hitherto been so quiet under their Burdens.

The *Revolution* (you know) was wrought by the General Consent of the People who for many Years past have had great and Just Apprehensions, and fears, of *Popery and Slavery*: The War was also Engag'd in by our general Approbation, so that having a King after our

own Heart, so generally Belov'd, a known Protestant, and Engag'd in a War that we so long wish'd for, every Man then slept Secure, thinking all things were safe, *because the Head was Sound*; and the Court likewise, and all the vast Troops of their Dependants Cry'd up the same thing (as indeed they had good Reason) *for Matters went well with them*; So that the generallity of the People being Voyd of Mistrust never Troubled themselves about *State Matters*, but minded their Private Affairs, and with great Willingness paid the *Taxes*.

Whereas in the late Reign, the King being a known Papist, all the People in general were possest with Jealousy, and even the very Cöbler in his Stall wou'd Eagerly Enquire after News, and thought himself Concern'd to know the Affairs of the Court: So that the Actions of the State, and the Peoples Knowledge of it, went hand in hand; For we see they were forewarn'd to make such provision as they did to disappoint their designs; For then *the King Acted openly with his Court*, but now *the Court Acts privately without the King*, by hiding each others Crimes, and the Peoples Grievances from him, *having had the great advantage of His Majesty's Absence about Six Months in every Year during the Course of this War*. And this I take to be a Principal reason why the generallity of the People have been so quiet from making any *Publick Complaints*.

But then it may be further observ'd, there's a great Difference between the Grievances of the late, and those of this Regn; The one was the Endeavouring to take away our *Laws*, to bring in *Pöpery*, which all the Nation were Enemies to: Rich and Poor, Good and Bad, Vertuous and Vitious, Saint and Sinner, all were utter Enemies to *Pöpery*: Besides it would take away abundance of *Estates of Abbey-lands* which was so great and general an
 Alarm

Allarm to the whole Nation, but Especially to the *Clergy*, That those Celebrated, Simple, Threadbare Doctrines of Passive-Obedience, Non-Resistance, &c. were Instantly frightened out of the Kingdom, and never heard of since: Nay, I dare Affirm, the very Papists themselves (tho' 'twas to Introduce their own Religion) wou'd ha' been very unwilling to part with any of these Estates.

But what are our Grievances now! VVhy not about Popery; They only consist of Pure Downright Cheating the Publick; And, Sir, to our Eternal Shame and Infamy, I must tell you, That multitudes of Poperies Zealous and Mortal Enemies, are Dear and Intimate Friends to this. Nay, to speak in General, there are few Men but what will much rather chuse to take Part in it, than make Complaint against it; for indeed the Nation is miserably Debauch'd by the horrid Nasty Fogs and Fumes of the Courts unsavoury Noysome Lusts.

But now, after all this Mighty Hate to Popery, and Love to Cheating, the Consequence of both is much alike; For if our Present Grievances, viz. Cheating the Publick, be well follow'd, the People will soon be made Beggars and Bankrupts, and then Poverty and Slavery will be found as True and Proper a Saying, as Popery and Slavery: And therefore, (to Speak in your own Stile) I think there's many that do well deserve the Character of Sleepy, Senceless Sots and Fools; But especially those Great Ones that have got Vast Estates by Fraud, Treachery, &c. Sure they are Besotted with a WITNESS, Fondly to Fancy, that they shall hold their Ill-got-Goods by Vertue of those Wholesome Laws that they have Constantly broke to Get them, This, I say, is a strange Paradox.

And now, pray, Who would you have to Complain of Grievances, and especially of these sort of Grievances, that are so generally Belov'd by those that shou'd Redress them: You see a very considerable part of the Nation are Silent, for Reasons I spoke of just now; and as for the Popularity, or Middle sort, *viz.* Traders, Husbandmen, &c. who are the Main Body of the People, they know their Grievances in General, but can tell nothing in Particular, where to fix the Fault; and so cannot Complain, but only *Grumble, Mutter and Murrur.*

And now, if a *Self-interested Man* won't Complain, and if an *Ignorant Man* can't Complain, and if a *Wise and Honest Man* (that knows the Strength and Power of the Corrupt Party) dare not Complain; Pray, Who would you have to Complain at all? Certainly, 'tis so far from being strange (as you say) that so few have Complain'd, That 'tis a great wonder to me, how any have had so much *GRACE* or *COURAGE* to open their Mouths against *Corruption.*

For who d'think shou'd Complain of a *Universal and Gainful Grievance*? You see the *Destruction of our Coyn* went forward all this Reign, and had even just *destroy'd the Government* before our *Long-Headed-Statesmen* did take the Pains to put *King or Parliament* in Mind to Redress it; This cou'd not possibly be through Ignorance: no, there was too much Money got by the Evil: and when the Trade cou'd be carried on no longer, *Then they all Cry'd out, like Patriots of their Countrey, to have it Redress'd.* So that for this *Branch of the Nations Ruin*, we may also Thank the *Court*, and Pray God we get well over it.

These are all Miserable and Destructive Evils, that this Poor Nation at present Staggers under, only for want of the Early, Constant and Impartial Execution of Justice to Encourage Virtue, and Suppress Vice. *But it seems this has been contrary to the deep Maxims of our Policy, and so has hitherto been omitted:* And thus I think I have shew'd you, why so few have Publickly Complain'd, tho' the Nation is so Loaded with Grievances. But I had almost forgot one Party and that is the *Jacobites*; and, I hope, you would not have them Complain against these Grievances: no, they had much rather forward them. For, 'tis upon these *Shameful Corruptions* they build their Hopes, and for which they Contemn and Scoff at the Government in all Publick Places, and Encrease their Party by many Profelytes: For no Honest Man is capable to Contradict them, being able to say nothing that is Good of the Court: Whereas, had Justice been duly Administred, and Vice and Wickedness Punished and Suppress'd (which we had, and have Power enough to do) there cou'd not have been at this day a *Protestant Jacobite* left in the Nation; For, the Justice and Equity of the Government must needs long before this, have Brought them all over from *Stubborn Folly*, and made them *Profelytes to their own Interest, and to Common Sense*, as well as Loving and Loyal Subjects to His Majesty.

And now, Sir, since you have Ask'd me several Questions, I shall beg leave Calmly to Ask you one, and that is, Pray to what end were your Honours and Employments Conferr'd upon you? *Were they, d'think only to get a Great Estate to leave to your Posterity?* Certainly the Duty's Incumbent on such Offices cannot have so poor

poor a Center, but must aim at much Higher and Nobler Objects, if a Man wou'd rightly consider them; But I shall not detain you at present with an Account how Great and Extensive they are, not doubting your Knowledge therein; however, in point of Friendship, I cannot but put you in Mind,

That (as a Privy-Councillor) you have Power to *Administer Justice*, but no Power to *Obstruct* it.

You have Power to put the *Law in Execution*, but you have no Power to *Pervert it*, or *render it useless*.

You have Power to Punish any *Capital Publick Offender*, but you have no Power to *Conceal his Crimes*, *Protect him*, and *let him Escape Punishment*: For, in doing it, you betray the *King*, and take from Him His *Regal Power*, and Rob the People of their *Laws and Liberties*. For you are to consider, that in hearing the Crimes of a *Publick Offender*, your Power only extends to Hear and Examine that Cause in Trust for your *King and Country*, that *Law and Justice* may take place; and a *Lord Chief Justice* may as lawfully presume to Pardon MURDER, or Forgive one of my Debtors, or a *Justice of Peace* to Compound that *Fellony* whereby I am Robb'd, as you to Protect, or Acquit any *Publick Offender*.

In short, In all your Publick Stations, you'r only a *Trustee for your Prince and Country*, to promote the Interest of both; and you are Answerable to both, in this World, as well as to God in the next, how you Discharge these Trusts; and I fear many MEN have most Dreadful Reckonings to make on this Account.

Therefore

Therefore Sir, I do Earnestly Advise you to take a Resolution to Save your Self from the Terrible Burden of this Guilt, and Rouse a Noble English Genius, and stand up for the Honour of God, and the Good of your Prince and Country (whose true Interests are Inseparable) that Justice may be Administred, Vertue Incourag'd, and Vice and Wickedness Punish'd and Suppress'd: For if you Sincerely Study True Pollicy, God will surely Instruct, and put you in the Right Way; Otherwise, you may still Continue to Wander, as you have Hitherto done: But after all, do not Entertain any fond opinion, that a Private Company of Men can possibly hold their Riches in the midst of a Ruin'd Nation; No, Certainly they must be Ruin'd also: For if there's any Law, that will do their business; if not, They'l only have the pleasure of being Plunder'd last, by an Inrag'd and Furious Popularity: For (as 'tis said in Job,) *Fire shall Consume the Tabernacles of Bribery.* If God has said it, We may affirm it; and Pawn our Lives and Souls, 'twill be done if Attonement be not made.

F I N I S.

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